IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appellants:	Peter C. JOHNSON II et al.	§	Confirmation No.:	1025
Serial No.:	10/765,519	§	Group Art Unit:	2143
Filed:	01/27/2004	§	Examiner:	Mark D. Fearer
For:	Instant Messaging HTTP Gateway	§	Docket No.:	200206870-1

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: October 27, 2009

Sir:

Appellants received the Office Action dated May 28, 2009 and hereby reinstate the appeal for the above-identified application under MPEP § 1204.01. A Notice of Appeal was electronically filed on August 27, 2009.

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. (HPDC), a Texas Limited Partnership, having its principal place of business in Houston, Texas. HPDC is a wholly owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company (HPC). The Assignment from the inventors to HPDC was recorded on January 27, 2004, at Reel/Frame 014936/0916.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellants are unaware of any related appeals or interferences.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Originally filed claims:	1-27.
Claim cancellations:	4, 13, 23 and 27.
Added claims:	None.
Presently pending claims:	1-3, 5-12, 14-22 and 24-26.
Presently appealed claims:	1-3, 5-12, 14-22 and 24-26.

IV. STATUS OF THE AMENDMENTS

No claims were amended after the Office action dated May 28, 2009.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Various embodiments of the invention are described below. The scope of disclosure is not limited by the descriptions of the embodiments that follow. Citations to the specification have been provided to demonstrate where support may be found in the specification for various parts of the invention. Additional support may be found elsewhere in the application.

Appellants' contribution is directed to an instant messaging system whereby instant messaging users are able to obtain various types of information from hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) servers, back-end databases and other data stores. Fig. 1; p. 4, ll. 3-18. Claim 1 is directed to a system that comprises an HTTP gateway (100) adapted to establish a communication link with an HTTP server (300). Fig. 1; p. 5, ll. 11-25. The system also comprises an instant messaging communication subsystem (110, 200) adapted to enable communication between a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces (210) coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem (110, 200). Fig. 1; p. 4, ll. 12-18. The HTTP gateway (100) establishes a communication link with the instant messaging communication subsystem (110, 200). Fig. 1; p. 4, ll. 3-5. The HTTP gateway (100) is adapted to receive commands from the instant messaging user interfaces (210), convert the commands to HTTP requests, send the HTTP requests to the HTTP server (300), receive HTTP responses to the HTTP requests from the HTTP server (300), and send the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces (210) via the instant messaging communication subsystem (110, 200). Fig. 1; p. 5, ll. 11-25. The HTTP gateway (100) selects the instant messaging communication subsystem (110, 200) from among a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems using a configuration file (340) of the HTTP gateway (100) stored on the system. Figs. 1 and 3; p. 8, l. 28 – p. 9, l. 10.

Dependent claim 9 is directed to an HTTP gateway that extracts text portions of the HTTP responses and communicates the text portions to the instant messaging user interfaces. P. 5, ll. 21-25.

Claim 10 is directed to a method that includes transmitting commands from a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces (210) to an HTTP gateway (100) via an instant messaging communication subsystem (110, 200), converting the commands to HTTP requests, transmitting the HTTP requests to an HTTP server (300), generating HTTP responses to the HTTP requests, and transmitting the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces (210) via the instant messaging communication subsystem (110, 200). Fig. 1; p. 5, ll. 11-25. Transmitting commands from the plurality of instant messaging user interfaces (210) to the HTTP gateway (100) comprises accessing a configuration file (340) to determine with which of a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems the gateway (100) establishes said communication link. Figs. 1 and 3; p. 8, l. 28 – p. 9, l. 10.

Dependent claim 17 is directed to extracting text portions of the HTTP responses and communicating the text portions to the instant messaging user interfaces. P. 5, ll. 21-25.

Claim 18 is directed to a system that comprises means (p. 5, ll. 11-25) for establishing a communication link between an HTTP gateway (100) and an HTTP server (300). Fig. 1; p. 5, ll. 11-25. The system also includes means (p. 5, ll. 11-25) for transmitting commands from a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces (210) coupled to an instant messaging communication subsystem (110, 200) to the HTTP gateway (100) via at least one instant messaging bot (110). Fig. 1; p. 5, ll. 11-25. The system further comprises means (p. 5, ll. 11-25) for converting the commands to HTTP requests, means (p. 5, ll. 11-25) for transmitting the HTTP requests to the HTTP server, means (p. 5, ll. 11-25) for generating HTTP responses to the HTTP requests and means (p. 5, ll. 11-25) for transmitting the HTTP responses via the at least one instant messaging bot (110) to the instant messaging user interfaces (210). *Id.* The HTTP gateway (100) selects the instant messaging communication subsystem (110, 200) from among a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems using a configuration file (340) of the HTTP gateway (100) stored on the system. Figs. 1 and 3; p. 8, l. 28 – p. 9, l. 10.

Claim 21 is directed to a gateway (100) that comprises a CPU (310) and a storage device (320) coupled to the CPU (310) and containing executable code (330). Figs. 1 and 3; p. 8, l. 28 – p. 9, l. 10. Upon executing the code (330), the CPU (310) receives commands from instant messaging user interfaces (210), converts the commands to HTTP requests, sends the HTTP requests to an HTTP server (300), receives HTTP responses from the HTTP server (300), and sends the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces (210) via an instant messaging communication subsystem (110, 200). *Id.* and Fig. 1; p. 5, ll. 11-25. The gateway (100) also includes a configuration file (340), wherein the CPU (310) accesses data in the configuration file (340) to determine with which of a plurality of instant messaging subsystems the gateway (100) establishes a communication link. Figs. 1 and 3; p. 8, l. 2 – p. 9, l. 10. The configuration file (340) is usable to determine to which of a plurality of HTTP servers (300) the gateway (100) sends the HTTP requests. *Id.*

Claim 24 is directed to a computer-readable medium (320) containing software (330) that, when executed by a processor (310), causes the processor (310) to receive commands from a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces (210), convert the commands to HTTP requests, transmit the HTTP requests to an HTTP server (300), receive HTTP responses from the HTTP server (300), and transmit the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces (210) via an instant messaging communication subsystem (110, 200). Fig. 1; p. 5, ll. 11-25; Fig. 3; p. 8, l. 28 – p. 9, l. 10. Receiving commands from or transmitting HTTP responses to the plurality of instant messaging user interfaces (210) comprises accessing a configuration file (340) to determine with which of a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems to establish a communication link. *Id.*

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Whether the Examiner erred in rejecting claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 10, 12 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0078424 ("*Yairi*") in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0186888 ("*Samn*").

Whether the Examiner erred in rejecting claims 2, 6, 9, 11, 14, 17-22 and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Yairi* in view of *Samn* and U.S. Pat. No. 7,146,404 ("*Kay*").

VII. ARGUMENT

A. Summary of relevant portion of Yairi

Referring to Fig. 1 of Yairi, reproduced below for the Board's convenience, Yairi teaches a technique whereby an instant messaging (IM) client 113, 115, 117 interface with a common mobile IM server 111. In turn, the mobile IM server 111 enables each IM client to access one of a plurality of web service providers 121, 123, 125. Abstract. The system shown in Fig. 1 employs only a single mobile IM server 111.

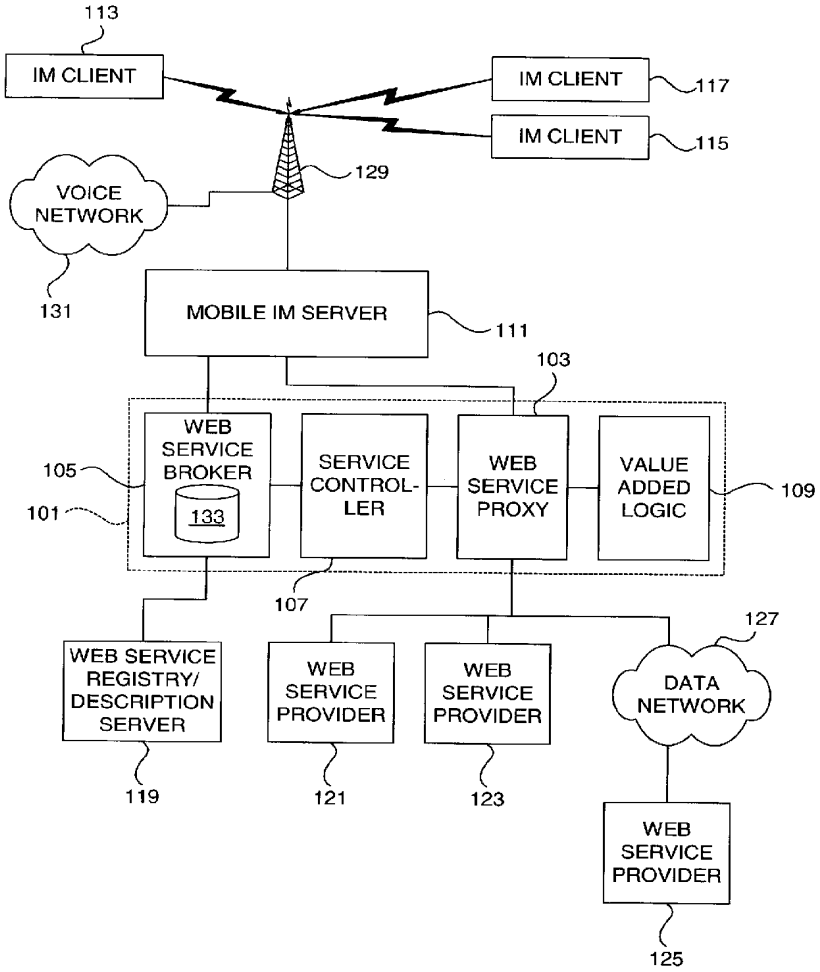

Figure 1

B. Whether the Examiner erred in rejecting claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 10, 12 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Yairi* in view of *Samn*

The Examiner bears the initial burden of factually supporting any *prima facie* conclusion of obviousness. The key to supporting any rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is the clear and explicit articulation of the reason(s) why the claimed invention would have been obvious. *MPEP* § 2141 (citing *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727 (2007)). Articulated reasoning with a rational underpinning is required to support a conclusion of obviousness, rather than mere conclusory statements. Further, to reach a proper determination, the Examiner must step backward in time and into the shoes worn by the hypothetical "person of ordinary skill in the art." In reaching a determination, the Examiner must avoid impermissible hindsight and the legal conclusion must be reached on the basis of the facts gleaned from the prior art.

1. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8

Claim 1, in part, recites "[an] HTTP gateway establishes a communication link with the instant messaging communication subsystem and wherein the HTTP gateway is adapted to receive commands from the instant messaging user interfaces, convert the commands to HTTP requests, send the HTTP requests to [an] HTTP server, receive HTTP responses to the HTTP requests from the HTTP server, and send the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem." Claim 1 further recites "the HTTP gateway selects said instant messaging communication subsystem from among a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems using a configuration file of the HTTP gateway stored on the system."

The Examiner argues that *Yairi* teaches all of the limitations of claim 1, except "wherein a selection is made from a plurality of proxy servers" and so relies on *Samn* to support the obviousness rejection. See Final Office Action dated 05/28/09, page 5, first full paragraph. The limitation noted as absent in *Yairi* by the Examiner ("wherein a selection is made from a plurality of proxy servers") appears to be a generalization of Appellants' claimed limitation "the HTTP gateway selects

said instant messaging communication subsystem from among a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems using a configuration file of the HTTP gateway stored on the system" and thus the Examiner does not even specifically address Appellants' above-noted limitation. The Examiner goes on to cite paragraphs [0011], [0017], [0037] and Fig. 6 of *Samn* as related to the generalized limitation. See Final Office Action dated 05/28/09, pages 4-8, item 6. Because the Examiner does not address the specific limitations of claim 1, the Examiner has failed to clearly and explicitly articulate the reason(s) why the claimed invention would have been obvious as is required. Even assuming, *arguendo*, that *Samn's* proxy servers are comparable to Appellants' claimed "instant messaging communication subsystems" as apparently the Examiner believes, *Samn* still does not teach or suggest an "HTTP gateway" that performs selection of instant messaging communication subsystems nor use of a "configuration file of the HTTP gateway" to perform such selection as in claim 1. In *Yairi* and *Samn*, considered individually or together, there is no discussion regarding an "HTTP gateway" that performs selection of instant messaging communication subsystems nor use of a "configuration file of the HTTP gateway" to perform such selection as in claim 1.

Further, with regard to the limitations "[an] HTTP gateway establishes a communication link with the instant messaging communication subsystem and wherein the HTTP gateway is adapted to receive commands from the instant messaging user interfaces, convert the commands to HTTP requests, send the HTTP requests to [an] HTTP server, receive HTTP responses to the HTTP requests from the HTTP server, and send the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem," the Examiner cites paragraph [0033] of *Yairi* to support the obviousness rejection. See Final Office Action dated 05/28/09, pages 4-8, item 6. *Yairi's* paragraph [0033] mentions various components (*e.g.,* IM client 113, web service proxy module 103, web service 125, web service broker 105, mobile IM server 111, service controller 107), but there is no discussion regarding an HTTP gateway, an HTTP server, HTTP requests and HTTP responses as in claim 1. In other words,

the Examiner does not even acknowledge the recited HTTP limitations of claim 1 and thus has failed to clearly and explicitly articulate the reason(s) why claim 1 would have been obvious as is required. Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is one of many alternative messaging protocols and is not inherent to either *Yairi* or *Samn*. Based on the foregoing, Appellants submit that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 1. Accordingly, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be reversed and that claim 1 and its dependent claims be set for issue.

2. Claims 10, 12, and 15-16

Claim 10, in part, requires "transmitting commands from a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces to an HTTP gateway via an instant messaging communication subsystem." Claim 10 further requires "converting the commands to HTTP requests," "transmitting the HTTP requests to an HTTP server," "generating HTTP responses to the HTTP requests" and "transmitting the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem." Claim 10 further requires "transmitting commands from the plurality of instant messaging user interfaces to the HTTP gateway comprises accessing a configuration file to determine with which of a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems the gateway establishes said communication link." For much the same reasons as given for claim 1, claim 10 is allowable over *Yairi* and *Samn*. In summary, the Examiner has not addressed the claimed "HTTP" and "configuration file" limitations of claim 10 and thus has failed to clearly and explicitly articulate the reason(s) why claim 10 would have been obvious as is required. Based on the foregoing, Appellants submit that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 10. Accordingly, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be reversed and that claim 10 and its dependent claims be set for issue.

C. Whether the Examiner erred in rejecting claims 2, 6, 9, 11, 14, 17-22 and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Yairi* in view of *Samn* and *Kay*

1. Claims 2, 6 and 9

Claims 2, 6 and 9 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over *Yairi* and *Samn* for the same reasons as given for claim 1. Further, *Kay* does not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of *Yairi* and *Samn* with respect to the claim 1. In particular, *Kay* does not teach or suggest the previously described "configuration file" limitation in claim 1.

In addition, claim 2 requires "at least one instant messaging bot, wherein the HTTP gateway is coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem via the at least one instant messaging bot and the instant messaging bot receives the commands from the instant messaging user interfaces and sends HTTP responses to the user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem." The Examiner cites *Kay* at col. 16, line 44 – col. 17, line 8. See Final Office Action dated 05/28/09, pages 11-14. The cited passage mentions a Personal Bot that stores personal information. However, there is no description in *Kay* regarding an "instant messaging bot [that] receives the commands from the instant messaging user interfaces and sends HTTP responses to the user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem" as in claim 2. In other words, the Examiner has provided insufficient evidence that Kay's Personal Bot performs the functions of Appellants' claimed "instant messaging bot." Due to the deficiencies in the Examiner's use of *Kay*, the Examiner failed to clearly and explicitly articulate the reason(s) why claim 2 would have been obvious as is required.

In addition, claim 6 requires "the HTTP gateway is adapted to map the HTTP requests to specific paths on the HTTP server." The Examiner cites *Yaira* at paragraph [0007] and *Kay* at col. 8, lines 14-48 as teaching the limitations of claim 6. See Final Office Action dated 05/28/09, page 14, last paragraph. The cited passages are unrelated to Appellants' claimed "HTTP gateway [that] is adapted to map the HTTP requests to specific paths on the HTTP server." More

specifically, *Yaira's* paragraph [0007] describes various difficulties related to accessing and paying for web services using SMS messages. Meanwhile, *Kay* at col. 8, lines 14-48 describes accessing data based on information provided in a request. None of the cited passages specifically mention an "HTTP gateway [that] is adapted to map the HTTP requests to specific paths on the HTTP server" as is required in claim 6. Due to the deficiencies in the Examiner's use of *Yairi* and *Kay*, the Examiner failed to clearly and explicitly articulate the reason(s) why claim 6 would have been obvious as is required. Based on the foregoing, Appellants submit that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claims 2, 6 and 9. Accordingly, Appellants request that the rejection of claims 2, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be reversed and that claims 2, 6 and 9 be set for issue.

2. Claims 11, 14 and 17

Claims 11, 14 and 17 depend from claim 10 and are allowable over *Yairi* and *Samn* for the same reasons as given for claim 10. Further, *Kay* does not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of *Yairi* and *Samn* with respect to the claim 10. In particular, *Kay* does not teach or suggest the previously described "configuration file" limitation in claim 10. Further, claims 11 and 14 recite limitations similar to claims 2 and 6 respectively and are allowable for much the same reasons as given for claims 2 and 6. Based on the foregoing, Appellants submit that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 11, 14 and 17. Accordingly, Appellants request that the rejection of claims 11, 14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be reversed and that claims 11, 14 and 17 be set for issue.

3. Claims 18-20

Claim 18 recites limitations similar to those discussed previously for claim 1 and is allowable over *Yairi* and *Samn* for the same reasons as given for claim 1. Further, *Kay* does not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of *Yairi* and *Samn* with respect to the claim 1 and similarly to claim 18. In particular, *Kay* does not teach or suggest the previously described "configuration file" limitation in claim 1, which is also recited in claim 18. Based on the foregoing, Appellants

submit that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 18. Accordingly, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 18 and its dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be reversed and that claims 18-20 be set for issue.

4. Claim 20

Claim 20 depends from claim 18 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 20 recites limitations similar to claim 6 and is allowable for much the same reasons as given for claim 6. Based on the foregoing, Appellants submit that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 20. Accordingly, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be reversed and that claim 20 be set for issue.

5. Claims 21-22

Claim 21 recites limitations similar to those discussed previously for claim 1 and is allowable over *Yairi* and *Samn* for the same reasons as given for claim 1. Further, *Kay* does not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of *Yairi* and *Samn* with respect to the claim 1 and similarly to claim 21. In particular, *Kay* does not teach or suggest the previously described "configuration file" limitation in claim 1, which is also recited in claim 21. Based on the foregoing, Appellants submit that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 21. Accordingly, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 21 and its dependent claim under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be reversed and that claims 21-22 be set for issue.

6. Claim 22

Claim 22 depends from claim 21 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 22 recites limitations similar to claim 2 and is allowable for much the same reasons as given for claim 2. Based on the foregoing, Appellants submit that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 22. Accordingly, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be reversed and that claim 22 be set for issue.

7. Claims 24-26

Claim 24 recites limitations similar to those discussed previously for claim 1 and is allowable over *Yairi* and *Samn* for the same reasons as given for claim 1. Further, *Kay* does not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of *Yairi* and *Samn* with respect to the claim 1 and similarly to claim 24. In particular, *Kay* does not teach or suggest the previously described "configuration file" limitation in claim 1, which is also recited in claim 24. Based on the foregoing, Appellants submit that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 24. Accordingly, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 24 and its dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be reversed and that claims 24-26 be set for issue.

D. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner erred in rejecting all pending claims. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

/Alan D. Christenson/

Alan D. Christenson
PTO Reg. No. 54,036
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
(713) 238-8000 (Phone)
(713) 238-8008 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANTS

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
Legal Dept., M/S 35
3404 E. Harmony Road
Fort Collins, CO 80528-9599

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A system, comprising:

an HTTP gateway adapted to establish a communication link with an HTTP server; and

an instant messaging communication subsystem adapted to enable communication between a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem;

wherein, the HTTP gateway establishes a communication link with the instant messaging communication subsystem and wherein the HTTP gateway is adapted to receive commands from the instant messaging user interfaces, convert the commands to HTTP requests, send the HTTP requests to the HTTP server, receive HTTP responses to the HTTP requests from the HTTP server, and send the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem;

wherein the HTTP gateway selects said instant messaging communication subsystem from among a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems using a configuration file of the HTTP gateway stored on the system.

2. The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one instant messaging bot, wherein the HTTP gateway is coupled to the instant messaging

communication subsystem via the at least one instant messaging bot and the instant messaging bot receives the commands from the instant messaging user interfaces and sends HTTP responses to the user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem.

3. The system of claim 1, further comprising a back-end database connected to the HTTP server, wherein the HTTP server is adapted to query the back-end database in preparing the HTTP responses.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the HTTP gateway further comprises a configuration file, and further wherein the configuration file is usable to determine with which of a plurality of HTTP servers the gateway establishes said communication link.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the HTTP gateway is adapted to map the HTTP requests to specific paths on the HTTP server.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the HTTP gateway polls the instant messaging communication subsystem for the commands from the instant messaging user interfaces.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein conversion of commands from instant messaging user interfaces into the HTTP requests comprises creation of form variables by the HTTP gateway based on the commands.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the HTTP gateway extracts text portions of the HTTP responses and communicates the text portions to the instant messaging user interfaces.

10. A method, comprising:

transmitting commands from a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces to an HTTP gateway via an instant messaging communication subsystem;

converting the commands to HTTP requests;

transmitting the HTTP requests to an HTTP server;

generating HTTP responses to the HTTP requests; and

transmitting the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem;

wherein transmitting commands from the plurality of instant messaging user interfaces to the HTTP gateway comprises accessing a configuration file to determine with which of a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems the gateway establishes said communication link.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein transmitting commands from a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces comprises receiving the commands via an instant messaging bot and forwarding the commands from the bot to the HTTP gateway.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein generating HTTP responses to the HTTP requests comprises querying a back-end database.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein transmitting the HTTP requests to the HTTP server comprises mapping the HTTP requests to specific paths on the HTTP server.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein transmitting commands from a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces to the HTTP gateway comprises polling the instant messaging communication subsystem for the commands.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein converting the commands to HTTP requests comprises creating form variables by the HTTP gateway based on the commands.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein transmitting the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces comprises extracting text portions of the HTTP responses and communicating the text portions to the instant messaging user interfaces.

18. A system comprising:

means for establishing a communication link between an HTTP gateway and an HTTP server;

means for transmitting commands from a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces coupled to an instant messaging communication subsystem to the HTTP gateway via at least one instant messaging bot;

means for converting the commands to HTTP requests;

means for transmitting the HTTP requests to the HTTP server;

means for generating HTTP responses to the HTTP requests; and

means for transmitting the HTTP responses via the at least one instant messaging bot to the instant messaging user interfaces;

wherein the HTTP gateway selects said instant messaging communication subsystem from among a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems using a configuration file of the HTTP gateway stored on the system.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein generating HTTP responses to the HTTP requests comprises a means for querying a back-end database.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein transmitting the HTTP requests to the HTTP server comprises a means for mapping the HTTP requests to specific paths on the HTTP server.

21. A gateway, comprising:

a CPU;

a storage device coupled to the CPU and containing executable code;

wherein, upon executing the code, the processor receives commands from instant messaging user interfaces, converts the commands to HTTP requests, sends the HTTP requests to an HTTP server, receives HTTP responses from the HTTP server, and sends the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via an instant messaging communication subsystem;

a configuration file, wherein the CPU accesses data in the configuration file to determine with which of a plurality of instant messaging subsystems the gateway establishes a communication link;

wherein the configuration file is usable to determine to which of a plurality of HTTP servers the gateway sends said HTTP requests.

22. A gateway as recited in claim 21, wherein the CPU further comprises executable code for an instant messaging bot, wherein the instant messaging bot receives commands from the instant messaging user interfaces and sends HTTP responses to the users interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem.

24. A computer-readable medium containing software that, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

receive commands from a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces;

convert the commands to HTTP requests;

transmit the HTTP requests to an HTTP server;

receive HTTP responses from the HTTP server; and

transmit the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via an instant messaging communication subsystem;

wherein receiving commands from or transmitting HTTP responses to the plurality of instant messaging user interfaces comprises accessing a configuration file to determine with which of a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems to establish a communication link.

25. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 24, wherein receiving commands from a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces comprises receiving the commands via an instant messaging bot.

26. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 24, wherein receiving HTTP responses from the HTTP server comprises querying a back-end database.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.